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PATENT #3(A)(NE)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Teruhiko IMOTO et al.

Serial Number: Not Yet Assigned  
(PCT/JP99/03234)

KTD  
3-16-01

Filed: November 30, 2000

For: **HYDROGEN ABSORBING ALLOY FOR ALKALINE STORAGE BATTERY  
AND METHOD OF PRODUCING THE SAME, AND HYDROGEN ABSORBING  
ALLOY ELECTRODE FOR ALKALINE STORAGE BATTERY AND METHOD  
OF PRODUCING THE SAME**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 30, 2000

Sir:

Prior to the calculation of the filing fees of the above application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 3 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the following claims:

Claim 1. (Amended) A hydrogen absorbing alloy for an alkaline storage battery having a crystal structure of a  $\text{CaCu}_5$  type and represented by a composition formula  $\text{MmNi}_x\text{Co}_y\text{Mn}_z\text{M}_{1-z}$  (in the formula, M is at least one element selected from aluminum Al and copper Cu, x is a composition ratio of nickel Ni and satisfies  $3.0 \leq x \leq 5.2$ , y is a composition ratio of cobalt Co and satisfies  $0 \leq y \leq 1.21$ , and z is a composition ratio of manganese Mn and satisfies  $0.1 \leq z \leq 0.9$ , with the

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